

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 4, 2022

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland:

You have failed to respond to our November 19, 2021, letter demanding information related to the shocking revelations that the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation plan to target concerned parents who choose to speak out at local school board meetings. Congress has a constitutional responsibility to conduct robust oversight of the Executive Branch. Your delay in responding to our request for information is entirely unacceptable.

Our concern regarding the Department of Justice's targeting of parents has only been heightened since the Justice Department announced the formation of a new domestic terrorism unit to combat an "elevated threat" to American democracy.¹ We are very concerned that this new division at DOJ will be used to advance your partisan agenda and further chill the First Amendment protected activity of parents.

Your decision to use Department resources to target and investigate parents at local school board meetings is an appalling abuse of power and will not be tolerated.

We expect an answer to the following questions by March 11, 2022.

1. How many meetings have Department of Justice personnel held with federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial leaders pursuant to your October 4, 2021, memorandum?
2. Where were those meetings held?
3. Who participated in those meetings?
4. What steps has the newly established domestic terrorism unit taken to implement your memorandum?
5. What steps has the National Security Division taken to implement your memorandum?
6. What steps has the FBI Counterterrorism Division taken to implement the memorandum?
7. Please explain the significance of a threat tag and how threat tags are used by the FBI?
8. Has any other component of the Department created a threat tag or similar label for parents who attend school board or other public meetings?

¹ Caroline Downey, *Justice Department Creates New Domestic Terrorism Unit to Combat 'Elevated Threat'*, NATIONAL REVIEW, (Jan. 12, 2022), <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/justice-department-creates-new-domestic-terrorism-unit-to-combat-elevated-threat/>.

9. How many parents have had a threat tag or other label assigned to them after attending a school board or other public meeting?
10. Please provide copies of all follow-up memorandum, guidance, or other materials created by Department personnel to implement your memorandum.
11. Please provide copies of all materials shared by Department personnel with federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial leaders regarding parental participation in school board or other public meetings.
12. Is the Department or any component of the Department working with federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial leaders to compile lists of parents who attend school board or other public meetings?
13. Are FBI agents, other Department personnel, or other Department assets attending school board or other public meetings to monitor parents?
14. Are Department resources being used to run background checks or conduct other research on parents who attend school board or other public meetings?

Sincerely,



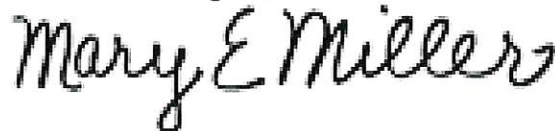
Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
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Louie Gohmert
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